

B' moved against the bias of the spring against an upper stop by means of a cooperation of threaded spindle and spindle nut, when the insert is pressed into the die bore against the material therein and to rotate back in the reverse rotational direction and to be axially moved against a lower stop axially spaced from the upper stop when the insert is moved out of the die bore.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The applicant has carefully studied the Office Action mailed March 14, 2003 and the cited references.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly note that the die is a punch for a rotary compression press which punch cooperates with a die bore of the rotor.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-10 §103 Rejection Streit

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7-10 were rejected as being obvious over newly cited Streit, U.S. Patent 5,902,512. It is believed that the claims as amended more clearly define the invention. As now claimed, the die in reality is a punch for a rotary compression press which punch cooperates with a die bore of the rotor in the rotary compression press to press the material (powder) in the die bore to form a tablet or the like. Usually, an upper and a lower punch are used to cooperate with one die bore. Such rotary compression presses are well-known.

In the invention an insert is used for the punch which is adapted to rotate. Inserts for punches are known for forming differently shaped tablets. In the invention the rotation of the insert is to facilitate the separation of the insert from the tablet already pressed when the punch is retracted. It is mandatory for this usage that the punch itself is secured against rotation, rather, can only axially move.

To allow an automatic rotation of the insert, the insert first is axially moved against an upper stop while rotating concurrently. When the main pressure forces are exerted to

the powder the insert engages the upper stop. Prior to this engagement the insert is rotated. When the punch is retracted the insert is rotated back towards the lower stop to allow relative rotation between the insert and the tablet in the die bore.

From this explanation it is clear that the newly cited references have no relation to the invention. In both cases the patents (Streit and Wieder) refer to punch inserts to emboss desired indicia in a molded plastic part. In both cases the insert allows a rotation of insert portions to achieve different adjustments for different indicia, however, there is no automatic rotation during the forming process in the mold. Both references do not show a spring which is adapted to force the insert back against a lower stop when the pressure force is released. There is also no automatic rotation of the insert during the building up of a pressure force when the insert engages the material in the die bore so that the insert is brought against an upper stop during the compression stop.

The invention in the claims as amended is clearly not suggested by any of the cited references, alone or in combination. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 3, 6 §103 rejection Streit v/ Wieder

Claims 3 and 6 were rejected as being obvious over the combination of Streit and newly cited reference Wieder U.S. Patent 6,308,929. As described above, the amendments to base claim 1 make it very clear that neither Streit nor Wieder suggests the invention as claimed. Neither Streit nor Wieder teach an automatic rotation, a spring to force the insert back or securing the punch itself against rotation. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

FORMALITIES

Pursuant to MPEP 608.02, Applicant requests that any objection to the drawings be held in abeyance pending allowable subject matter.

If an extension of time is required to make this response timely and no separate petition is enclosed, Applicant hereby petitions for an extension of time sufficient to make the response timely. In the event that this response requires the payment of government fees and payment is not enclosed, please charge Deposit Account No. 22-0350.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing it is believed that the present application, with claims 1-10 is in condition for allowance. Early action to that effect is earnestly solicited. It is noted that the German priority application has matured into German patent DE 100 24 340 C2.

Respectfully submitted,

VIDAS, ARRETT & STEINKRAUS

Date: June 6, 2003

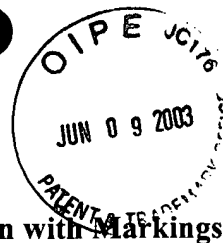
By: _____


Scott Q. Vidas

Registration No.: 30812

6109 Blue Circle Drive, Suite 2000
Minnetonka, MN 55343-9185
Telephone: (952) 563-3000
Facsimile: (952) 563-3001

f:\wpwork\squ\09610us01_amd_20030606.doc



RECEIVED
JUN 10 2003
TC 1700

Marked-Up Text

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

1. (Twice Amended) A punch for a rotary compression press which has a rotor, the rotor having at least one die bore and at least one guiding bore for the axial guidance of the punch, the punch having a shank received by the guiding bore, key locking mechanism between the guiding bore and the shank preventing rotation of the punch in the guiding bore, the punch further having an insert adapted to engage the die bore for the compression of material in the die bore, [A die for a rotary compression press, comprising a die holder and a die insert which is seated in an end-side bore in a front-end face of the die holder,] the die insert being seated in an end-side bore in a front-end face of the shank and having a trunnion-shaped projection which is seated in the end-side bore and mounted via releasable fastening member [means], the die insert being biased by a spring toward the front-end face, the insert being adapted to automatically rotate in the end-side bore in a first rotational direction and to be axially moved against the bias of the spring against an upper stop [the projection being adapted to rotate in the die bore between axially spaced stops] by means of a cooperation of threaded spindle and spindle nut [means], when the insert is pressed into the die bore against the material therein and to rotate back in the reverse rotational direction and to be axially moved against a lower stop axially spaced from the upper stop when the insert is moved out of the die bore [and to be biased by a spring towards the front-end face].